

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Utilization of Park Fees and Interest From Park Fees

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the acquisition and development of parkland with fees derived from the Park Lands Dedication Ordinance and the maintenance and operation of County Parks with the interest accumulated on Park Lands Dedication fees.

Background

Section 66477 of the Government Code enables local governments to require the dedication of land or the payment of a fee in lieu thereof for neighborhood and community park or recreational purposes. The Park Lands Dedication Ordinance (County Ordinance Section 810.101 through 810.114), which became effective February 17, 1973, provides the mechanism for the implementation of Section 66477 of the Government Code in San Diego County. The words or phrases defined in the Park Lands Dedication Ordinance shall have the same meaning when referred to in this policy.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The recreation element shall provide for meeting park needs of the community in accordance with the overall guidelines of the General Plan Recreation Element. Specific recommendations shall be included regarding priorities for use of fees received pursuant to the Parklands Dedication Ordinance so these funds may be used effectively and expeditiously.
2. To provide maximum possible park acreage for present and future County residents, fees received pursuant to the Park Lands Dedication Ordinance will be used for land acquisition and development of new, or rehabilitation of existing, County local park or recreational facilities or for such facilities when they occur in a regional park and are available to serve the recreational needs of local residents. These funds may be used for development of local parks only if a County Service Area or some other taxing agency or other source exists other than the County General Fund to provide ongoing maintenance and operation services.
3. The Parks and Recreation Department and cognizant advisory committees will advise and assist in recommending priorities for acquisition and development in addition to standard maintenance and operation programs for parks. The Board of Supervisors may create local park and recreation advisory committees in each Local Park Planning Area or

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may utilize community planning committees to advise and assist in recommending priorities, site selection and development of park facilities within a Local Park Planning Area. Input from other citizens and community organizations will also be solicited and utilized.

4. Park Lands Dedication Ordinance fees shall be committed within 5 years from payment of such fees or the issuance of building permits on one half of the lots created by the development, whichever occurs later. The Parks and Recreation Department shall be responsible for the preparation and annual revision of a five-year capital improvement program which includes how, when, and where park fees shall be used. This program shall be presented to the Board of Supervisors annually for consideration and approval along with the capital improvement budget.

5. Interest earned on Park Lands Dedication Ordinance fees is not subject to the 5 year commitment limitation nor is it subject to any refund requirement.

6. The County encourages the joint use of publicly owned lands and facilities and will cooperate with other public agencies to pursue joint programs or projects for planning, acquisition and development of park facilities where such cooperation will result in better service to the public or a more effective use of public funds and when the other agency provides maintenance and operation services.

7. Interest on Park Lands Dedication Ordinance fees will be kept in a separate sub-fund in the Park Lands Dedication Ordinance fund and accounted for separately by the Auditor and Controller.

Sunset date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-09.

Board Action

12-6-73 (3)

5-22-79 (150)

8-4-81 (12)

9-27-83 (82) to be effective 11-3-83

6-20-89 (63)

12-5-95 (36)

8-7-2002 (5)

1. Department of Parks and Recreation

2. Chief Financial Officer/Auditor and Controller